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Trust No One, DIA Counsels Rookie Attache

If you should ever be invited to an embassy party overseas, look for a clean-cut Jack Armstrong type, furtively peering behind the potted palms and philodendrons. That will be an American military attache, checking for spies.

Each year the Defense Intelligence Agency's school in northern Virginia gives 100 future military attaches a rigorous training course in intelligence techniques. A training manual issued to the recruits warns them to be on guard against the agents of darkness who lurk in diplomatic circles.

"You soon will be meeting officers and agents of the KGB and GRU," the manual starts off, referring to the dread Soviet secret police agencies. "Depending on your area of assignment, you may also meet people from the HVA, STB, CSS, SB, RO, AVH, HSR and the DGI"—the spy agencies of Cuba, Czechoslovakia and other Soviet satrapies.

Dizzied by this alphabetical barrage, the future attache is then warned that anyone may turn out to be an agent of the Kremlin.

"You will chat with these people, shake hands with them at receptions, be their guest at cocktails, host them at dinners, and join them at the theater. You will give them orders as they drive your car or taxi, as they mix your drinks or as they prepare your lunch or shine your shoes."

"They will give you language lessons, help you with your travel reservations, cut your hair and repair your plumbing.... They will be wearing tuxedos, military uniforms, overalls, bikinis, golf shoes and blue jeans."

This protean proletarian army is not to be trusted, though. Their goal is to "induce in you a sense of well-being, relaxation and carelessness," the fledgling attaches are warned.

"The above is not intended to convince you that there is a Communist agent behind every bush, although they are behind an undetermined but significant percentage of the bushes," the manual continues, "and the percentage is extremely high on those bushes located on or near the diplomatic circuit."